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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: KAZAMA, Toshio JCU/Rec'd UFG/PFO 10 JAN 2001  
Assignee: NHK Spring Co., Ltd.  
Title: ELECTROCONDUCTIVE CONTACT UNIT ASSEMBLY  
Serial No.: Unknown Filing Date: Herewith  
Examiner: Unknown Group Art Unit: Unknown  
Docket No.: AB-1101 US

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San Jose, California  
January 10, 2001

BOX PCT  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D. C. 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97(b)**

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, § 1.97 and § 1.98, the documents listed on the accompanying PTO Form-1449 are called to the attention of the Examiner for the above patent application. Copies of these documents are enclosed. The relevancy of the non-English documents AM through AO in PTO Form-1449 is explained in the International Search Report for International Application No. PCT/JP99/03714, which is the international stage of the present application. In addition, the relevance of documents AN and AO in PTO Form-1449 is explained in documents AQ and AR in PTO Form-1449 (English language abstracts).

Citation of these documents shall not be construed as:

1. an admission that the documents are necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention;
2. a representation that a search has been made, other than as described above; or

LAW OFFICES OF  
SKJERVEN MORRILL  
MacPHERSON LLP

25 METRO DRIVE  
SUITE 700  
SAN JOSE, CA 95110  
(408) 453-9200  
FAX (408) 453-7979

3. [REDACTED] an admission that the information cited therein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b). U7100000

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Respectfully submitted,

*Michael Skjerven, Reg.*  
No. 34,250, for  
*Alan MacPherson*  
Alan H. MacPherson  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 24,423

LAW OFFICES OF  
SKJERVEN MORRILL  
MacPHERSON LLP

25 METRO DRIVE  
SUITE 700  
SAN JOSE, CA 95110  
(408) 453-9200  
FAX (408) 453-7979